

**Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland**

**October 15, 2008 / 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**The Maryland Department of Planning**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

**Meeting Summary**

*Members:* Jon Laria (Chair), David Beall, Derick Berlage, Karl Brendle, David Carey, Sandy Coyman, Teena Green, Janet Greenip, Jan Gardner, Richard Hall, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, David Jenkins, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Caroline Varney- Alvarado (for Carol Gilbert)

*Attendees:* Don Akchin, Marty Baker (MDOT), Jamie Bridges (BMC), Peter Bousein (Office of Del. McIntosh), Charles Evans, Alan Girard (CBF), Dave Goshorn (DNR), John Greiner (DHCD), Brad Heavner (Env. MD), Les Knapp (MACo), Steve Lafferty (MD Delegate), Amanda Mack (DLS, MD General Assembly), Katie Maloney (MSBA), Jeanne Mills, Susan Mitchell (MD Homebuilders), John Papagni, Izzy Patoka (Governor's Office), Jim Peck (MML), Frank Principe (Balto. Co.), Rhonda Ray, Maria Rivera, Anne Roane (City of Cambridge), Kurt Sommer (DHCD), Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Helga Weschke (DBED), Hara Wright-Smith (DHCD), Victoria Woodward (Safe Waterways in MD)

*MDP Staff:* John Coleman, Amanda Conn, Peter Conrad, Larry Fogelson, Pat Goucher, Marco Merrick, Nery Morales, Matt Power, Eric Schmitt, Shelley Wasserman

**Welcome & Administrative Matters**

Mr. Jon Laria, Chair welcomed the Task Force members.

**Listening Sessions**

The Maryland Department of Planning's Communication Director, Mr. Marco Merrick thanked the Task Force members for their participation, assistance, and support throughout the Listening Sessions. Mr. Merrick attributed the Listening Session success to the stakeholder's commitment and dedication. Mr. Merrick distributed a summary of the Listening Sessions. He also noted that an online survey will also provide more feedback. The analysis for the Listening Sessions will not be completed until all Listening Sessions are completed. Mr. Merrick reminded the Task Force of the two remaining Sessions on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and October 28<sup>th</sup>. He informed the Task Force to please contact him for more information on the previous or upcoming October Listening Sessions.

The Chair, Mr. Laria noted that the new proposed “Twelve Visions” were presented at the Listening Sessions, and there was a positive reaction to them. He also suggested that the group review the Listening Session summaries and question responses in more detail.

#### Priority Funding Areas Workgroup Update

Mr. Knaap, PFA Workgroup Chair, updated the Task Force on the workgroup’s progress. The group has met three times and has arrived at some general agreements. The group has agreed that the Twelve Visions should and ought to be the foundation for PFAs. The workgroup also agreed that there needs to be some further analysis on job capacity and growth analysis in order for PFAs to be successful. The group will review this concept in depth at the upcoming.

#### Adequate Public Facilities Workgroup Update

Mr. Berlage, APFO Workgroup Chair, updated the Task Force on the workgroup’s progress. The workgroup has met several times and so far the recommendations fall into three major categories which will be presented at the late October meeting.

Mr. Laria reminded the group that the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus on discussing the parameters of State Housing, Transportation and Development Plans.

#### State Housing Plan Parameters

John Greiner, DHCD, presented an outline for the State Housing Plan Parameters [which is available on the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting link on the Task Force’s website].

Mr. Berlage commended DHCD on its parameters. Mr. Berlage is very interested in seeing the information for the assessment portion and how that review looks from various geographical standpoints around the State.

There were questions and discussion about the amount of existing funding programs within the State and how much discretion does the State really has with those funding sources.

Mr. Knaap asked for further elaboration on the housing policies being described and how they are being targeted.

Mr. Laria set a week deadline to provide any feedback on these parameters. Comments may lead to further discussion and is open to having these conversations and agreed that these parameters were a good outline.

Mr. Hertsch noted that the State Development Plan should contain population projections and how to address the growth and capacity issues.

### State Transportation Plan Parameters

Mr. Halligan presented an outline for the State Transportation Plan Parameters [which is available on the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting link on the Task Force's website].

Ms. Gardner had a question about the origin of these specific goals, considering that the group has not formally recommended or adopted a PFA tiering model.

### State Development Plan Parameters

Mr. Hall presented an outline of the State Development Plan parameters [which is available on the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting link on the Task Force's website].

Mr. Hall emphasized that the timeline for rolling out the State Development Plan was at a minimum six months and this time next year a draft of the plan will be released.

Ms. Gardner asked about the information the State would be requesting in connection with the plan and about its role in State land use decisions. She also wondered how differences will be worked out and advised that a six month review is a very short time period. Mr. Hall replied that this review period is vague and that it would remain that way until there is more information and reminded the group that often these plans get tweaked.

Ms. Gardner commented that MDP already has County comprehensive plans and advised that Counties are looking for recognition and some sort of foundation as they formulate their plans and are reviewed.

Ms. Schmidt- Perkins worried that if the SDP took the approach of solely incorporating comprehensive plans then this wouldn't be much progress, nor would it solve how to better utilize our resources.

Mr. Knaap reminded the Task Force that history has demonstrated that these State Plans tend to live and die with the administrations. Therefore Mr. Knaap suggested that maybe a way to vet this Plan is to have the Governor's Smart Growth Sub-Cabinet adopt it and therefore broaden the ownership. He also reiterated that the State Development Plan will serve as a communication tool and in some cases the SDP will not marry up with all localities but will still provide a proactive stage.

Mr. Laria asked the agencies to work together and to integrate all the parameters into one single document.

In view of time constraints, it was decided that an all-day meeting would be held on October 27, 2008 to discuss the proposed recommendations.

Mr. Laria requested that all additional recommendations be forwarded to him for discussion by the Task Force at its next meeting.

*Public Comments*

None

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm.